

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 /059 W

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P 020415Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5573

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: SADAT'S CANDIDACY FOR REELECTION IN 1976

REF: STATE 179574

1. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PRES SADAT HAS OFTEN ASSERTED IN PRIVATE THAT HE IS WEARY OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE AND INTENDS TO RETIRE WHEN HIS TERM EXPIRES IN OCTOBER 1976. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH REMARKS REFLECTED A KIND OF PIOUS HOPE ON PART OF PRES THAT BY FALL OF NEXT YEAR HIS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES WOULD HAV

SUCCEEDED TO POINT AT WHICH HE COULD RETIRE FROM PUBLIC STATE WITH FULL HONORS. CLEARLY SUCH A POSSIBILITY IS NO LONGER ON THE CARDS, AND CLOSE RELATIVES AND ADVISORS HAVE NO DOUBT LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THE PRES TO AGREE TO A SECOND TERM. AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE PROBABLY INFLUENCED HIM MOST ARE HIS WIFE, SAYYID MAR'I, VP MUBARAK, FAHMY, MARWAN, AND LEADERS IN THE MILITARY AND ASU COMMANDS.

2. SADAT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY APPARENT ABSENCE OF QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR. MAR'I, STILL A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE, IS OLDER THAN SADAT AND DOES NOT ENJOY GOOD HEALTH. AS FOR VP MUBARAK, AFTER THREE SHORT MONTHS IN UNFAMILIAR POLITICAL ROLE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SADAT WOULD JUDGE HIM READY TO TAKE OVER PRESIDENCY. FURTHERMORE, MUBARAK HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY

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ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONAL POWER BASE THAT HE WOULD REQUIRE AS

SERIOUS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

3. IN SHORT, AS MATTERS NOW STAND, WE BELIEVE SADAT'S ACCEPTANCE
AS ASU DRAFT SHOULD BE READ AS FORMAL COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT
NOMINATION FOR SECOND TERM NEXT OCTOBER.
EILTS

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